

Feeley, P. Mara, J. P. Fitzgerald, and J. Mahoney. The delegates to the Conference of Catholic Societies, held in Christchurch at Easter, handed in a highly satisfactory report, for which they were thanked. The delegates were Messrs. M. Mahoney, J. P. Fitzgerald, and J. Venning. A vote of thanks to the rev. chairman terminated the meeting. The club is now fairly started, and as the syllabus includes everything from dumbbells to debating, the meetings should be largely attended and the membership still further increased. The committee should make a special effort to purchase a piano this year, an item that would save a lot of expense and would always be available for a social evening.

The excitement over the recent rains has subsided with the floods, and though enormous damage has been done there are many instances where it has proved not so great as anticipated. To those who suffered but slight injury to their grain, the high prices ruling will be a solatium.

A boon to farmers and what will cause many of them to pay more attention to dairy farming is the erection of a dairy factory at Maori Hill, Timaru. The company has a nominal capital of £10,000 at £1 per share, about half of which is called up. At present the supplies are drawn from creameries, and a good commencement has been made.

DIocese of AUCKLAND.

From our own correspondent.)

April 10.

His Lordship Dr. Lenihan left this morning for the Northern Wairoa district, where he will conclude the mission now being given by the Very Rev. Father Benedict, O.P., and also administer Confirmation.

The Cemetery Board has given permission to a firm of monumental masons to carry on business upon a portion of the unused part of the cemetery, the revenue from which is to be devoted to its beautifying and keeping in order.

A very successful concert was given last Tuesday evening in the Sacred Heart schoolroom, Ponsonby. The programme was a really excellent one, every item of which was heartily appreciated by the large audience which, despite the inclement weather, had assembled. Dr. Egan devotes the proceeds to parochial purposes.

[This letter arrived too late for insertion in our last issue.]

April 17.

The drawing of the art union in connection with St. Patrick's Day celebration is to take place this evening. The prizes won were distributed last Friday evening to the successful competitors.

The new church at Waihi, for which Father Brodie and his people have so long and persistently labored, will be dedicated and opened next Sunday by his Lordship Dr. Lenihan.

The Auckland branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, at its meeting last night, decided to join with the other friendly societies in Auckland in establishing a Friendly Societies' Dispensary. The question was discussed at great length before a decision was arrived at.

The discontinuance of the daily southern mail arriving at Onehunga is a source of great inconvenience to the public generally. It causes a day's and sometimes two days' delay in the delivery of the TABLET in Auckland.

His Lordship Dr. Lenihan returned last Monday afternoon from the Northern Wairoa. He administered Confirmation to a large number of children and adults. The Very Rev. Father Benedict, O.P., who has been hard at work giving missions in the towns on the river, assisted the Bishop. The presence of his Lordship in the North evoked the keenest delight amongst his flock up there.

The chairman of the Auckland Education Board is not in favor of the inspection of private schools by the board's inspectors. Of course he is not, and only for the force of public opinion and for very shame's sake he would probably prevent it. The truancy question and its connection with private schools have engaged attention here during the past week, and in discussing the matter the chairman got off his inspection hobby.

The following is the list of pupils of St. Leo's Academy who were successful at the Trinity College Music Examinations:—Senior—Florence M. Cogan 70. Intermediate honors—Ivy Wynyard 60, Dolly Munro 75, Nellie Fuljames 66. Intermediate pass—Elsie Fraser 81, Helena Fuljames 75, Agnes Smith 64. Junior honors—Ella le Huguet 69, Ethel B. Nairn 60, Agnes Smith 66, Kathleen Wynyard 60. Junior pass—Ernest Bailey 66, Gladwin Bailey 67, Winifred Boylan 70, May Dickey 91, Ella le Huguet 94, Alberta Munro 71, Jennie Syme 73, Mildred Munro 82. Junior (practical)—May Dickey.

Last Monday evening the pupils of St. Leo's Academy gave a most successful entertainment in the Foresters' Hall, Devonport. The building was crowded in every part. In the audience were Rev. Fathers Purton, O.S.B., Buckley, McGuinness, McIntosh, Russell, and O'Hara. The programme was as follows:—Duet (3 pianos), Masters Lander, Bailey, G. Bailey, Misses D. Boylan, McLean, M. Wynyard, orchestra; chorus (with orchestral accompaniment); duet (3 pianos), Misses Fraser, Wynyard, Henson, Fuljames, Duder; action song; concerted piece (two mandolines and guitar), Misses Cunningham and Henson, Mr. Lawrence; vocal solo, Miss M. Knight; duet (3 pianos), Misses I. Wynyard, le Huguet, Fuljames, Nairn, Boylan, Munro; chorus and dance; duet (3 pianos), Misses K. Wynyard, Munro, le Huguet, Fuljames, Henson, Thomas, orchestra; vocal solo, Miss M. Knight; banjo solo, Mr. Lawrence. The second part consisted of the fairy extravaganza, 'Aladdin: the Wonderful Scamp,' in which the cast of characters was as follows:—Aladdin, Miss Maud Peacocke; Widow Twankey, Miss Clarice Campbell; Emperor of China, Miss Fuljames; Grand Vizier, Miss Millar; Pekoe (son of Vizier), Miss K. Wynyard; Princess Balrouboudour, Miss Ethel Thomas; magician,

Miss Ivy Wynyard; spirit of lamp, Miss Daisy James; spirit of ring, Miss Flora McLean; first mandarin, Miss Ethel Nairn. Mr. P. F. Hiscocks acted as conductor and Mr. Alf. Bartley as accompanist. So successful was the entertainment that by request it was repeated last evening with equally successful results.

REEFTON.

In a recent issue the *Inangahua Times* gave a review of the work of the Catholic Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society, Reefton. The first meeting was held on Wednesday, March 5, in the boy's school-room, 25 being present. Very Rev. Dean Rolland, who has taken the warmest interest in the society, occupied the chair. The election of officers for the ensuing year took place as follows: Mr. C. Cohen, elocution master; Rev. Dean Rolland, president; Mr. Bellamy, vice-president; Mr. W. Morris, secretary; Mr. Boland, assistant secretary; committee, Messrs. Carrol, Larkins, and Kessler, together with the above officers. Mr. Cohen, who on rising was received with applause, thanked Rev. Dean Rolland for the honor he had paid him by inviting him to give instructions on elocution, which afforded him the greatest pleasure. He then spoke on the benefit of such societies.

Very Rev. Dean Rolland also pointed out many of the advantages of the elocution and debating society meetings, where one hears much that is original and much that is old put in new forms, sometimes very quaint and queer forms, and all types of speakers, the fast, the slow, the hesitating and the clear. He complimented the society on having such an eloquent and painstaking teacher as Mr. Cohen, and hoped that everyone would appreciate the instructions given by that gentleman.

On Wednesday, March 12, the feature of the evening was the debate 'Local Option versus Prohibition.' Mr. Cohen introduced the subject in a telling speech, followed by the debate which lasted nearly two hours.

On the following Wednesday, March 19, Very Rev. Dean Rolland presiding, the debate was continued, lasting nearly an hour and a half, and was listened to by the audience with intelligent attention. On the question being put to the meeting there was a majority of one in favor of local option.

On Wednesday, March 26, Mr. Cohen presiding, the entire evening was taken up with recitations contributed by the following:—Mr. Carrol, 'Death of Napoleon at St. Helena,' also a reading, 'David's Lament for Absalom'; Mr. Smith, 'Warrior at Sea'; Mr. W. Morris, 'A Church-yard Scene'; Mr. Larkin and Mr. Crowley, a dialogue, 'Lochiel's Warning.'

After a few remarks by the chairman some of the pieces were gone through a second time and showed a marked improvement. The chairman complimented the members on their work and particularly mentioned Mr. Crowley, who he said gave indications of elocutionary capabilities, showing good signs of modulation and accent, and that for the four years he had presided over elocutionary societies in Reefton he heard nothing equal to him.

Catholic Indians and Colored People.

THERE are 52 priests engaged in mission work among the colored people in the United States; 15 of these belong to the archdiocese of Baltimore. During the year there were 4,551 baptisms of children among the negroes, but 3055 of these were in the archdiocese of New Orleans, and 855 in Baltimore. The total Catholic colored population of the United States is placed at 141,000. There are 7173 colored children in Catholic schools. New Orleans leads with 78,000 colored Catholics, and Baltimore comes next with 37,000, while Louisville is a distant third with 9500.

Of the 264,825 Indians in the country, 95,192 are said to be Catholics; 16,500 of these Indians live in the archdiocese of Santa Fe, while 50,000 live in the vicariate of Brownsville, Texas. There are 800 Catholic Indians in Maine. Eighty-five priests look after the spiritual interests of the Indians.

Irish Lace.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Boston Pilot* asked as to the origin of patterns of genuine Irish point lace, and received the following reply:—'They are modifications of a piece of Milan point owned by Mother Mary Ann Smith, of the Presentation Convent at Youghal, and were first used when the failure of the potato crop in 1846 left so many thousands starving, with no work to be found anywhere. The New Ross rose point patterns come from a fragment of lace bought by a nun from a Jewish peddler. The Cork crochet shells and wheels have been slowly developed from very simple beginnings, and although the work is not now produced in very large quantities, thanks to the thoughtless selfishness which buys cheap imitations, it is still the most beautiful among all the black open trimmings worn with black or colored heavy woollen cloths. Wrought in pure black silk, it will outwear a dozen trimmings of woollen braids or cords, neither rusting nor turning white and not suffering from dampness. In fine cream thread it makes exquisite yokes, lapels, cuffs, and ties, and in cream white silk it is the richest possible adornment for white silk, satin, or velvet. It costs but little more than Spanish machine-made and hand-run lace, and if the silk or thread be thoroughly wet before using it will wash as well as Valenciennes.'

If you are suffering from Bronchitis, send to your chemist for TUSSEIGRA. You will receive instant relief,—*.*